

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are presented for consideration, with Claim 1 being independent.

Claim 1 has been amended to further distinguish Applicant's invention from the cited art.

The following remarks address the issues raised in the Office Action of November 25, 2003.

In that regard, Applicant notes with appreciation that Claims 12 and 13 are indicated as containing patentable subject matter. These claims remain in dependent form, however, as it is respectfully submitted that parent Claim 1 is patentable in its own right for the reasons discussed below.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 8-11, 14, 15, 17 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Funatsukuri (JP '325) in view of Kitano '454. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10, 11 and 17 are rejected as allegedly being obvious over Funatsukuri in view of Hatano '243. In addition, Claims 4, 7, 16, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Funatsukuri in view of Hatano and further in view of Bohler '445 (Claims 16, 18 and 19), Bornhorst '474 (Claim 4), and Pettit '073 (Claim 7). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of Applicants' invention relates to an image display device comprised of an image display element for modulating incident light and displaying an image, and an illumination device for sequentially irradiating with light in each color the image display element and is adapted to change an image displayed on the image display element in synchronization with the irradiation of the light to thereby recognize the image. The illumination device comprises a light source for emitting white light, a plurality of color filter members rotatably arranged in a light path between the light source and the image display element, and a filter drive

means for rotationally driving each of the plurality of color filter members individually. The illumination device sequentially converts the white light emitted from the light source into each color of light by rotationally driving the color filter members and switches image quality of a displayed image by switching the rotationally driven color filter members. As amended, Claim 1 sets forth that the plurality of color filter members comprise a first filter member and a second filter member, and a ratio of an area of a first color area to other color areas on the first filter member is different from a ratio of that first color area to other color areas on the second filter member.

Support for the amendments to Claim 1 can be found, for example, in Figure 2 and on page 23, line 14, et seq. of the specification.

Applicant is submitting concurrently herewith a certified translation of Japanese Priority Document No. 2000-191904, filed June 26, 2000. As this document predates Kitano '454, it is respectfully requested that Kitano be removed as a reference. Applicant also wishes to note that neither Funatsukuri nor Kitano teach or suggest, among other features, a color filter with a first filter member and a second filter member as set forth in Applicant's claimed invention. For these reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 6, 8-11, 14, 15, 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

As discussed in the previous Amendment of August 15, 2003, Funatsukuri relates to a projection color image display device that provides three sheets of color wheels 21, 22 and 23 with a reflection area reflecting a red, green or blue color beam and transmitting the remaining colors, and motors 71, 72 and 73 for rotating the color wheels. In addition, a microlens array 31 converges reflected light beams from the color wheels on corresponding pixels of a liquid crystal display element 32.

The secondary citation to Hatano relates to a liquid crystal display apparatus and was cited for its teaching of first and second filter members. In Hatano, a rotating color filter 62 receives light emitted from a projection light source 16, and a rotating color filter 61 receives light through a writing lens 12. The Office Action asserts, on page 4, that a certain color area of the first filter member 62 is different from that of a second filter member 61.

In contrast to Applicant's claimed invention, however, Hatano does not teach or suggest, among other features, color filter members wherein a ratio of an area of a first color area to other color areas on a first filter member is different from a ratio of that first color area to other color areas on the second filter member. In Hatano, color filter member 62 consists of red, green and blue filters and a light shielding filter (unnumbered) disposed between each color filter. Color filter 61 includes red, green and blue filters without the three light shielding filters. It is respectfully submitted, however, that Hatano does not teach or suggest that a ratio of an area of a first color area to other color areas on the first filter member is different from a ratio of that first color area to other color areas on the second filter member. This feature is also not present in the three sheets of color wheels in Funatsukuri.

Accordingly, without conceding the propriety of combining Funatsukuri and Hatano in the manner proposed in the Office Action, it is submitted that such a combination still fails to teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10, 11 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

Bohler relates to a solid state light source and was cited for its teaching of automatically switching color filter members. Bornhorst relates to a lighting fixture with a color wheel assembly and was cited for its teaching of disclosing transmittancy characteristics of the

color filter members. Pettit relates to a color source selection method and was cited for its teaching of a color filter member having a white area. These tertiary citations fail, however, to compensate for the deficiencies in the proposed combination of art with respect to Claim 1 as discussed above.

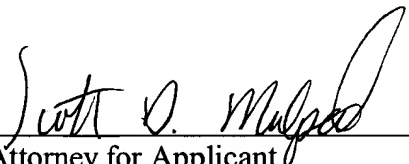
Therefore, without conceding the propriety of combining the art in the manner proposed in the Office Action, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 applied to Claims 4, 7, 16, 18 and 19 are respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claim 1 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 2-19 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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